

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application |) | |
| Smith, et al. |) | Examiner: Norca Torres-Velazquez |
| |) | |
| Serial No.: Not yet assigned |) | Group Art Unit: 1771 |
| |) | |
| Filed: Herewith |) | Dept. Acct. No.: 04-1403 |
| |) | |
| Title: Carpet Backing Components |) | |
| and Methods of Making and |) | |
| Using the Same |) | |

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits and prior to calculation of the fees, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following section before the "Background of the Invention".

Related Applications

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/261,130, which was filed on March 3, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-49.

Please add the following claims:

50. A carpet comprising:

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a primary backing that is formed from a woven fabric component having warp and fill yarns that is needlepunched to a bonded nonwoven fabric component, said backing having a dimensional stability of about 3 pounds to about 20 pounds, wherein the dimensional stability is determined by grabbing and pulling the backing at a 45 degree angle in relation to the warp and fill yarns of the backing such that the backing incurs approximately a 5% elongation; and

a piling yarn inserted through said primary backing.

51. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said nonwoven fabric component has a weight of about 0.25 ounces per square yard to about 5 ounces per square yard.

52. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said nonwoven fabric component has a weight of between about 0.5 ounces per square yard to about 3 ounces per square yard.

53. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said nonwoven fabric component has a weight of between about 0.75 ounces per square yard to about 3.0 ounces per square yard.

54. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said woven fabric component has a weight of about 2 ounces per square yard to about 8 ounces per square yard.

55. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said woven fabric component has a weight of between about 3 ounces per square yard to about 5 ounces per square yard.

56. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein the weight ratio of said woven fabric component to said nonwoven fabric component is between about 1 to about 5.

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57. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said woven fabric component comprises warp yarns having about 20 to about 35 ends per inch and fill yarns having about 10 to about 30 picks per inch.

58. The carpet according to claim 50, further comprising a secondary backing attached to said primary backing.

59. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said warp yarns, said fill yarns, or combinations thereof comprise synthetic fibers.

60. The carpet according to claim 59, wherein said synthetic fibers comprise polypropylene.

61. The carpet according to claim 59, wherein said synthetic fibers are continuous fibers.

62. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said woven fabric component comprises monofilament warp yarns and monofilament fill yarns.

63. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said weave construction of said woven fabric component is a plain weave.

64. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said nonwoven fabric component is bonded by needle-punching.

65. The carpet according to claim 50, wherein said nonwoven fabric component comprises synthetic fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, nylon, polyester, polyethylene, and combinations thereof.

66. A carpet comprising:

a primary backing that is formed from a woven fabric component having warp

and fill yarns that is needlepunched to a bonded nonwoven fabric component, said woven fabric component having a weight of about 2 ounces per square yard to about 8 ounces per square yard and a weave construction of between about 20 ends per inch to about 35 ends per inch and between about 10 picks per inch to about 30 picks per inch, wherein said warp yarns, said fill yarns, or combinations thereof comprise synthetic fibers, wherein said primary backing has a dimensional stability of about 3 pounds to about 20 pounds as determined by grabbing and pulling the backing at a 45 degree angle in relation to the warp and fill yarns of the backing such that the backing incurs approximately a 5% elongation; and

a piling yarn inserted through said primary backing.

67. The carpet according to claim 66, wherein said woven fabric component has a weight of between about 3 ounces per square yard to about 5 ounces per square yard.

68. The carpet according to claim 66, wherein said nonwoven fabric component has a weight of between about 0.75 ounces per square yard to about 3.0 ounces per square yard.

69. The carpet according to claim 66, wherein said synthetic fibers are continuous fibers.

70. The carpet according to claim 66, wherein said woven fabric component comprises monofilament warp yarns and monofilament fill yarns.

71. The carpet according to claim 66, wherein said nonwoven fabric component comprises synthetic fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, nylon,

polyester, polyethylene, and combinations thereof.

72. The carpet according to claim 66, wherein the weight ratio of said woven fabric component to said nonwoven fabric component is between about 1 to about 5.

73. A primary backing for a carpet, wherein said primary backing is formed from a woven fabric component having warp and fill yarns needlepunched to a bonded nonwoven fabric component, said woven fabric component having a weight of about 2 ounces per square yard to about 8 ounces per square yard and a weave construction of between about 20 ends per inch to about 35 ends per inch and between about 10 picks per inch to about 30 picks per inch, wherein said warp yarns, said fill yarns, or combinations thereof comprise synthetic fibers, wherein said primary backing has a dimensional stability of about 3 pounds to about 20 pounds as determined by grabbing and pulling the backing at a 45 degree angle in relation to the warp and fill yarns of the backing such that the backing incurs approximately a 5% elongation.

REMARKS


It is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and meet all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

It is believed that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Torres-Velazquez is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this response.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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